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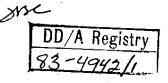
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Central Intelligence Agency





Washington, D. C. 20505

25 NOV 1983

The Honorable Margaret M. Heckler The Secretary of Health and Human Services Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Madam Secretary:

Your letter to Mr. Casey of 15 November 1983, was forwarded to me for action regarding National Family Week and National Adoption Week during the week of 20 - 26 November.

Unfortunately, your letter did not arrive in time for the CIA to arrange attendance at the kick-off ceremony on 21 November. Nevertheless, I can assure you that the federal employees at our agency are generally aware of the opportunities for the adoption of children through local community adoption agencies and public announcements such as National Family Week. Our employees participate in many community and federally sponsored service programs, and the activities and interest of your Department provide additional support in the area of specialized needs and opportunities. We support your efforts in these programs.

Harly E. Fitzwater
Deputy Director
for
Administration

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THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

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NOV 1 5 1983

The Honorable William J. Casey Director Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

On November 21-23, the Department of Health and Human Services and the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) will sponsor a Special Needs Adoption Festival in the Great Hall of the Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. each day. Our kick-off ceremony is at 10 a.m. on November 21. The Festival is in observance of National Family Week, November 20-26, to be proclaimed by President Reagan. National Adoption week, sponsored by NACAC, will be observed the same week.

During the past year, the Department has undertaken a national initiative to help States and local communities promote the adoption of special needs children—children in foster care who are of school age, handicapped, members of minorities or in sibling groups. There are hundreds of waiting children in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. Our Festival will open this adoption campaign to Federal employees and the public in our own community.

The Office of Human Development Services and NACAC are working with local public and private adoptive agencies to plan a colorful, festive exhibit with films and resource materials. We will have adoptive parents and their special needs children and adoption workers to provide information on adoption, including the availability of subsidies for some children. There will be a booth on Native American adoptions and a number of celebrities and entertainers will join us during this occasion.

I hope that you will encourage your Department employees, as well as their families and friends, to come to the kick-off ceremony and participate in our Festival. Although a wide variety of people--including single men and women and older couples--adopt special needs children, many of our Federal workers may not be aware of this opportunity.

Page Two -- The Honorable William J. Casey

In addition, I am enclosing one of our Families Initiative posters which we hope you will display. Perhaps a year from now several special needs children will celebrate Thanksgiving in families recruited at our Adoption Festival!

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Heckler

Secretary

Enclosure

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